

ally a scarce summer resident, this bird was unusually plentiful this year (1914). On July 28, I saw a flock of about 60, nearly all were adult males.— J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C.*

Some Unusual Breeding Records from South Carolina.—WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*). In view of the alarming decrease in numbers of this species in recent years, the following record is of particular interest. On June 23, 1912, in the Otranto Swamp near Charleston, S. C., I found a brood of seventeen well grown young. This, I believe, is an unusually large number, as all of the authorities which I have consulted on the subject give the full complement of eggs as ranging from eight to fifteen. In this case it is probable that even more than seventeen eggs were laid as it must be rare indeed for a full set of eggs to be hatched and the young brought to the age of two or three weeks without casualty of any kind.

It has been suggested that two sets of eggs may have been laid in the same nest.

WOODCOCK (*Philohela minor*). Although Woodcock are known to breed sparingly in the coast region of South Carolina, definite records of breeding are few. On February 22, 1913, a female was shot at Summer-ville, near Charleston, S. C., and was found to contain several eggs the largest of which would probably have been laid the next day.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*). While the Loggerhead often begins nest building in February, it is seldom that eggs are laid before the end of March, and I have never before known a pair to be successful in incubating during the inclement weather that usually prevails in the early part of that month. However, on March 30, 1913, I saw a young Loggerhead which could not be distinguished from its parents in size, and could be recognized as a young bird only by its actions and because it was being fed regularly. We had ample opportunity to watch this performance for the parents were busy catching insects while the young bird followed them closely and by fluttering and squawking, insisted upon having his share. Allowing twelve days for incubation and at least as many for the then age of the youngster—both of which estimates are probably very low—the full set of eggs must have been complete by March 6, if not earlier.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, JR., *Charleston, S. C.*

Notes on Some Birds of the Maryland Alleghanies; An Anomaly in the Check-List.—After a lapse of twelve years, the writer was fortunate enough to be able to again spend a week in the highest part of the Maryland Alleghanies, namely at Accident in Garrett County. This is the westernmost county of Maryland and the hamlet in question is about ten to fifteen miles northeast of Deer Park and Mountain Lake Park, the well-known summer resorts on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The natural features of this so-called glade region of the Alleghanies, its beauty and attractiveness to the naturalist and nature-lover, have been more fully described in Vol. XXI of 'The Auk,' in the article headed: 'Birds of Western Maryland.' Excepting the melancholy fact that saw-mill and

narrow gauge had laid low some extensive stands of primeval spruce and hemlock, the country was little changed, the same fine air, the same dearth of mosquitoes, so welcome to the tired vacationist, the same mountains, which are here low and easy to get over, since the whole country is high. Thus George's Hill is the second-highest point in Maryland, 3004 ft. above sea-level, yet it is only 500 to 800 ft. higher than the adjoining lower land. The mountains nearly all run in long parallel ridges from southwest to northeast, the usually low depressions between some of them, are the glades, formerly the home of innumerable flocks of Wild Turkeys and Ruffed Grouse, of deer, panthers, bears and catamounts. The best known of these long mountains near Accident are Negro and Meadow Mountains. On the former the writer spent many delightful though laborious hours or days on former and on the present visit.

Knowing full well the psychological and other reasons against the reliability of testimony of this kind, I would say that the Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) has somewhat increased in numbers as compared to twelve years ago. On July 7, Mr. F. Burkhard, a keen nature lover and observer of Accident, and the writer saw and heard about fifteen to twenty males; no doubt some males were not singing at this time of the year, it being an extremely warm day besides. They were found in the stands of primeval spruce and hemlock, which fortunately the lumbermen have so far not been able to secure, as well as on the crest of the mountain, where chestnut is the prevailing tree, interspersed with here and there a few spruce and hemlock. In the same kind of places the Black-throated Blue Warbler (*D. c. caerulescens* not *cairnsi*), and the Black-throated Green (*D. virens*) are found, both in about the same numbers as formerly; the former also descends into the rhododendron thickets of gullies lower down. The Carolina Junco (*Junco h. carolinensis*) is found in the open scraggy growth of chestnut along the flat and rocky crest of the mountain. Here the Pileated Woodpecker (*Phlebotomus p. abieticola*), the Scarlet Tanager and the Crested Flycatcher hold forth in undiminished numbers, also the Red-tailed Hawk and the Turkey Buzzard, while from the sides comes the bell-like chorus of Veery (*Hylocichla f. fuscescens*) and Wood Thrushes. One or two of the Turkey Buzzards seemed to follow us about for hours over the mountain; they probably had their young near by, as there is no lack of large hollow logs and cracks and crevices in the rocks, here and there piled up in huge masses, as if by titans. Canadian and Chestnut-sided Warblers (*Wilsonia canadensis* and *D. pennsylvanica*) are found in bushy places, grown up with second growth deciduous trees and shrubs, the former has a fondness for wet places in such areas, usually very thickly grown over. A surprise awaited us in a depression between Negro and Meadow Mountains, half way between Bittinger and Accident. There is some fine tall spruce and hemlock, so thick that no direct sunlight reaches the ground, which is covered with rhododendron, many northerly species of plants, and some upturned roots of spruce. I was just about to remark, "If this were in Canada, we should now hear a Winter Wren," — the moss-

covered ground and the flattish upturned roots involuntarily produced this thought — when suddenly, clear and loud, rang out the beautiful notes of the Winter Wren. For a moment I was in doubt whether I was really in Maryland or in Quebec, but if nothing else, the luxuriant growth of rhododendron quickly dispelled any illusion. I had formerly never heard that song here, or if I did, I did not know it, and therefore did not put down this wren as a permanent resident for western Maryland, which it now turns out to be. The Bobolink, by the way, was also recorded for the first time for this vicinity, in a pasture near the village.

Now, as to the anomaly in the A. O. U. Check-List regarding a species of bird of the tops of our eastern mountains. For obvious reasons I did not collect many birds on this last trip. But the few I took confirmed a suspicion I had in my mind since my residence in that part of the country. I took two male *D. caerulescens*. I expected to find some pronounced black on the back, to fit in with the description of *D. c. cairnsi*, which, according to the Check-List in the resident variety, geographical race or subspecies. They were adult males in high plumage, well colored. But they were not *cairnsi*, as is borne out by a comparison with skins from Canada and Illinois. That brings us into this dilemma: Either *D. c. cairnsi* is not the prevailing form here, as stated in the Check-List, and *D. c. caerulescens* comes down to not only Pennsylvania, as stated there, but to Maryland; or we have *cairnsi* and *caerulescens* together here, which militates against the underlying principle of geographic races and subspecies; or the difference between the two is slight and not constant. If the last explanation is correct, as I am inclined to believe, I should favor doing away with the race *cairnsi* entirely.— C. W. G. EFRIG, *River Forest, Ill.*

The Status of the Song Sparrow and the Chipping Sparrow as Early Birds.— Since writing my notes on the 'Morning Awakening' printed in 'The Auk' for April, 1913, I have been paying particular attention to the awakening of the Song and Chipping Sparrows as evidenced by their earliest morning songs. These later observations confirm my conviction that these two birds are much later risers than the Robin. In fact, I should now place the Song Sparrow 25 or 30 minutes after the Robin, instead of only 13 minutes as my earlier observations made it. This discrepancy I account for by the greater care exercised in these recent notes in eliminating from consideration all sporadic night songs and including only the songs that indicated a permanent morning awakening.

The new records are of six mornings in 1913 and five in 1914, all at my house in West Roxbury, Mass. One Song Sparrow sang regularly both seasons very near the house, and often another could be heard not far away, while one or two Chipping Sparrows were always equally in evidence, and no Robin sang near enough to drown the songs of the sparrows. Strange to say, my notes include no records whatever of very early singing on the part of the Chipping Sparrow, which leads me to suspect that the nocturnal singing for which that species is well known may be chiefly confined, in